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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2727  
INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE  
RUEHAE/AMEMBASSY ASMARA 0693  
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 0264  
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SIPDIS

FOR NEA/ARP AMACDONALD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/08/2019

TAGS: [PREL](#) [AL](#) [YM](#)

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE RESPONSE: ARAB LEAGUE STATES PRIOR TO  
SEPTEMBER 9-10 MINISTERIAL

REF: STATE 92629

Classified By: Ambassador Stephen Seche for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

(S) The Ambassador delivered reftel demarche to Foreign Minister Abubakr al-Qirbi on September 7, encouraging the ROYG to support Somalia's Transitional Federal Government (TFG), Iraqi elections, and the Middle East Peace Process. Qirbi agreed that Eritrea has exerted a negative influence in Somalia and said that President Saleh believes Eritrean interest there is focused primarily on damaging Ethiopian interests. Qirbi mentioned that Eritrean officials in Yemen had approached him to seek Yemeni support for an Eritrean-sponsored dialogue between Eritrean groups in Somalia and the TFG. While skeptical that the Eritrean officials could successfully broker a deal, Qirbi said, "if they have a good plan, we'll support it for the sake of peace." On the issue of Iraq, Qirbi conveyed his concerns over Iraqi stability, particularly in light of current tensions with neighbor Syria. Mentioning his belief that Syria and Iran are allies, Qirbi said, "We do not want to see diplomatic trouble between Iraq and Syria because extremists will take advantage (of the situation)."  
SECHE